

CHAOS!
ON THE EDGE

Lady Death

#3

(of 4)

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Last Rites



Ostrander • Reis • Pimentel • Hi-Fi

Lady Death

Past Rites # 3 *'Suffer the Children'*

Lady Death has found herself ALIVE and once more on the planet Earth, in New York City, but without any memory of who she is other than her name. She has been befriended by VIRGIL SOLOMON, the ghost of a slain police detective, and has, in turn, befriended young SARAH WILSON who, with her brother Tommy, lives with their Uncle Ralph. While trying to free some souls trapped by the Chaos avatar INNSMOUTH, Lady Death and Virgil encountered GRIMMOIRE who revealed to Lady Death something of her past. To her horror, she discovered she is the author of MEGADEATH - the deaths of millions so that she could walk the Earth once more. Meanwhile, the Chaos avatar VILE, in the persona of Levi, searches for Sarah while a mysterious being called SANCTITY has possessed Sarah's Uncle Ralph and commanded him to kill the children!

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IN A HEARTBEAT,
IT ALL CHANGES.

YOU HAVE VERY LITTLE.
YOU MAY THINK YOU HAVE
NOTHING. IN A HEARTBEAT,
EVEN THAT LITTLE IS TAKEN
FROM YOU. YOUR SENSE
OF SAFETY, YOUR FEELING
OF SECURITY, YOUR WHOLE
IDEA OF THE WORLD --
ALL GONE IN A HEARTBEAT.

SARAH AND TOMMY WALKED
IN THE DOOR AND THOUGHT
THEY LEFT THE DANGEROUS
WORLD OUTSIDE. THEY
CLOSED THE DOOR AND
FOUND IT THERE WITH THEM.
THEIR UNCLE IS POSSESSED
AND THEY WILL DIE.

ALL IN A
HEARTBEAT.

SAVE
KILL

PLEASE,
LET ME KILL
YOU!

SUFFER
THE CHILDREN

AND IN A HEARTBEAT, YOU
CAN FIND COURAGE YOU
NEVER KNEW YOU HAD.

**RUN,
TOMMY!**

WHERE
DO WE
GO?!

LADY D!
C'MON!

RUN! FOR
THE LOVE OF
GOD, RUN!

YOU LET
THEM ESCAPE?!
IF YOU LOVE
THEM, HOW CAN YOU
DO THAT?! YOU MUST
PURSUE THEM! SAVE
THEM! SAVE THEIR
SANCTITY!

SAVE
KILL

YES...
YES... I WILL
SAVE THEM...
WILL KILL
THEM...!

GODDAM IT,
BITCH, WHERE ARE
YOU?! I FIND YOU AND
LEVI PROMISED ME A
LIFETIME SUPPLY OF
CANDY! I DON'T FIND
YOU SOON...!







WHERE IS SHE, SARAH? WHERE'S THE LADY?

I DON'T KNOW, TOMMY! COME ON! WE'LL SEE IF WE CAN SLIP OUT A BACK DOOR OR SOMETHING.

THERE YOU ARE, YOU PRECIOUS DARLINGS!

PRECIOUS
PRECIOUS



LADY D? YOU IN HERE?

NOW WHERE DID YOU OFF TO? I KNOW WHAT GRIMMOIRE SAID GOT YOU UPSET AND ALL BUT...



COME BACK, CHILDREN! I'M TRYING TO SAVE YOUR SOULS!

RUN, TOMMY!



I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON HERE! I DOUBT YOU CAN EVEN SEE ME BUT YOU STOP!

AAAAH!

WHO ARE YOU?! WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?!

YOU CAN SEE ME?!

GET AWAY, DAMN YOU! YOU MADE ME LOSE SIGHT OF THE CHILDREN!

DAMN! SOMETIMES I REALLY HATE THIS BEING A GHOST CRAP! NOTHING I CAN DO TO SAVE THOSE KIDS!

"NOTHING BUT FIND LADY D!"

SHE CROUCHES SEVERAL STORIES ABOVE THE STRANGE, GLITTERING BEAST THAT IS THE CITY BELOW HER. MIND STILL REELING FROM WHAT SHE HAS LEARNED. SHE NOW KNOWS WHO SHE IS, WHAT SHE IS, WHAT SHE HAS DONE, AND IT SICKENS HER.

ARE WE POUTING?

GO AWAY! I DENY YOU!

WHY?

WHY SHOULDN'T
THEY DIE -- **ALL** OF
THEM -- IF THEIR DEATHS
SERVE MY NEEDS? THIS IS
THE HUMANITY THAT BURNT
US ALIVE FOR THE SINS
OF OUR FATHER.

I'M NOT
YOU.

YOU **WERE**.
YOU **ARE**. YOU **NEED**
ME. I AM THE BITCH
WARRIOR GODDESS AND
YOU NEED ME TO SURVIVE.
YOU **HUNGER** FOR ME.
YES, EVEN LUST
FOR ME.

POOR CHILD.
SO CONTEMPTUOUS
OF OTHER PEOPLES'
PERSONAL DEMONS. SO
UNWILLING TO FACE
YOUR OWN.

LADY D!

GET DOWN
IN HERE -- FAST!
SARAH'S UNCLE RALPH IS
HERE. HE'S GONE CRAZY,
HE'S AFTER THE KIDS AND
HE'S GOT A KNIFE! IF YOU
DON'T WANT THEM AS DEAD
AS **ME**, YOU BETTER
DO SOMETHING AND
I MEAN NOW!

I **NEED**
SOMETHING
TO HIT RIGHT
NOW.

SQUIRM
GOOD

DON'T
SQUIRM, CHILD!
THIS IS FOR YOUR
OWN GOOD!





...YOU ARE
PRECISELY WHAT
I NEED!



LADY?
ARE YOU
OKAY?

HACK!
HEUGH!
GAK!



OH, I'M
FINE, CHILDREN.
EVERYTHING IS GOING
TO BE ALRIGHT
NOW.

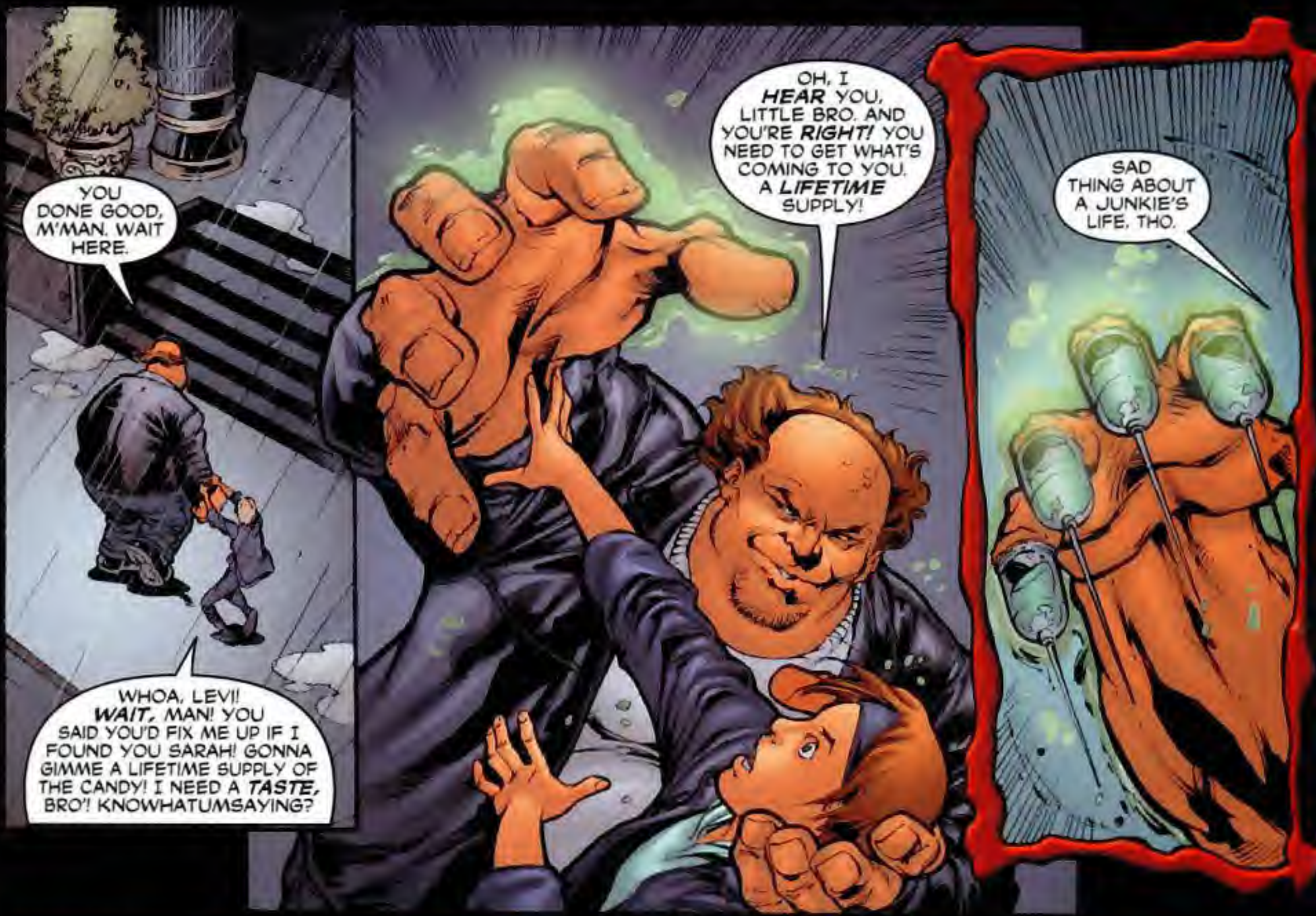


C'MON, LEVI!
I DON'T WANNA
MAKE A CAREER
OUTTA THIS!



THIS
THE PLACE YOU
TALKING ABOUT,
STEVIE-BOY?

YOW! DON'T
SNEAK UP ON A
GUY LIKE THAT, MAN!
GONNA GIMME A HEART
ATTACK -- MAJOR!
YEAH, THIS BE
THE CRIB!







PUT HIM DOWN!
PUT HIM DOWN!



YES, THIS FORM IS SO MUCH MORE SATISFACTORY! FAR BETTER TO DO WHAT MUST BE DONE!

BE AT PEACE, CHILDREN! I AM GOING TO MAKE SURE YOU ARE TOGETHER FOR ALL ETERNITY! SAFE FROM ALL MORTAL HARM!



DON'T YOU DO IT, LADY DI! I TRULY DO NOT KNOW WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU BUT FIGHT IT, LADY DI! YOU HATE BEING TOLD WHAT TO DO! DON'T LET IT MAKE YOU DO SOMETHING YOU DON'T WANT! FIGHT IT!



NO!



SARAH?
WHY DID THE LADY
TRY TO *HURT* US?
WHAT'S SHE DOING
NOW?

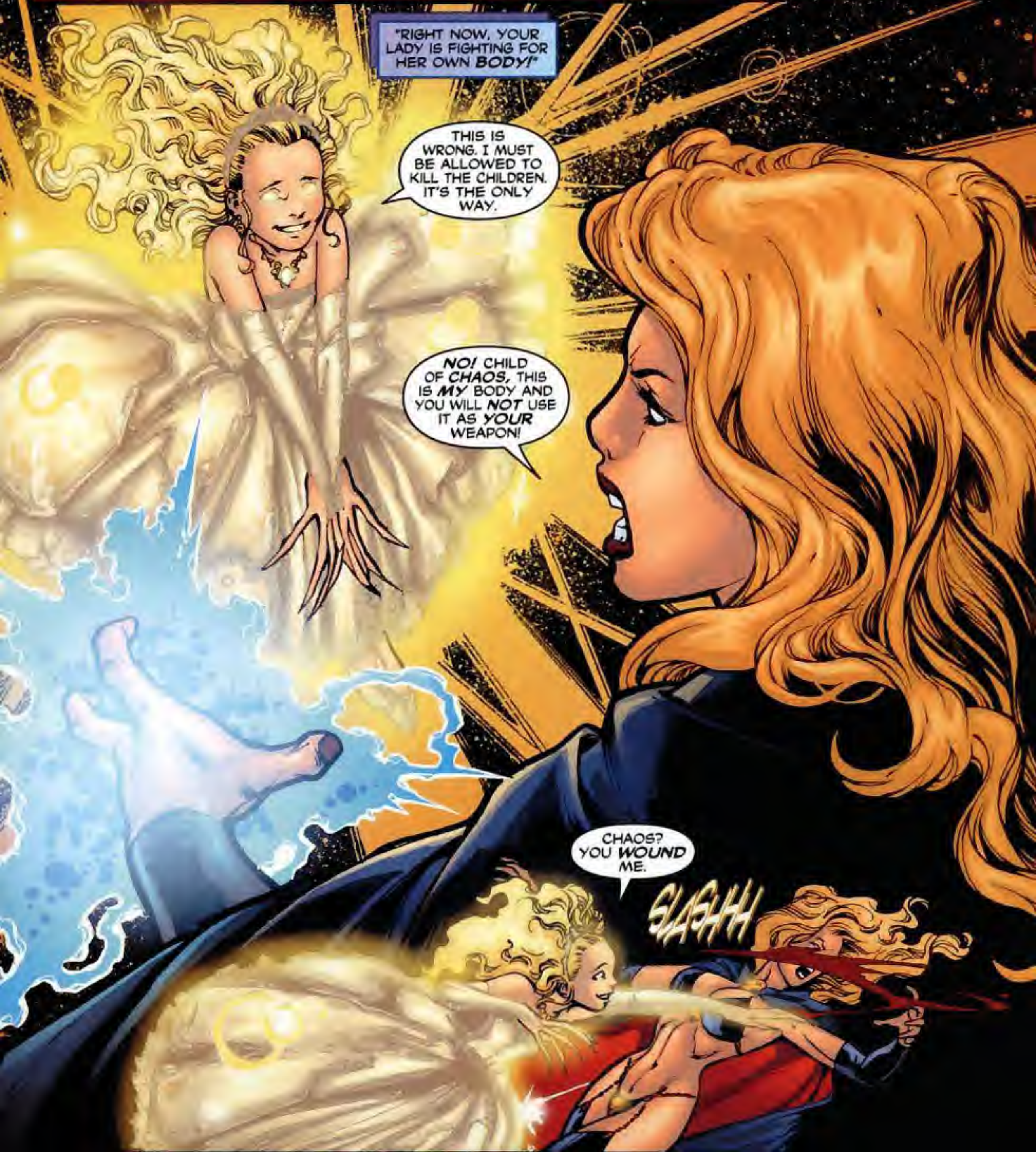
I DON'T
KNOW,
TOMMY...!



SANCTITY...



SHE'S BEEN
POSSESSED... LIKE I
WAS... CREATURE CALLS
HERSELF *SANCTITY*...
I DIDN'T WANT TO HURT
YOU... *SHE* MADE ME...
GONNA TRY TO MAKE
YOUR LADY DO IT...



"RIGHT NOW, YOUR
LADY IS FIGHTING FOR
HER OWN *BODY*!"

THIS IS
WRONG. I MUST
BE ALLOWED TO
KILL THE CHILDREN.
IT'S THE ONLY
WAY.

NO! CHILD
OF *CHAOS*, THIS
IS *MY* BODY AND
YOU WILL *NOT* USE
IT AS *YOUR*
WEAPON!

CHAOS?
YOU WOUND
ME.

SLASHH



I AM
SANCTITY AND
I AM A CHILD OF
ORDER. WE ARE THE
FOES OF CHAOS. I'M
MAKING CERTAIN THAT
THE INNOCENT SOULS
BORN TO CHILDREN
STAY PURE AND
SO COME TO
ORDER.

AND WE ALL KNOW
YOU'RE SO VERY FAR
FROM INNOCENCE, LADY
DEATH. YOUR SOUL IS QUITE
PUTRID, IN FACT. I DON'T
MUCH CARE FOR BEING IN
IT, ACTUALLY.

SO -- STOP
BEING SUCH A BITCH
AND LET ME RESCUE
THE CHILDREN SO I CAN
LEAVE. IT'S NOT AS IF
YOU REALLY CARED
ABOUT THEM. YOU SIMPLY
CLAIMED THEM AND YOU
THINK THAT MAKES
THEM YOURS.

NOT
TRUE!

I DO CARE! THEY
HAVE AN INNOCENCE --
ONE THAT WAS DENIED ME --
STRIPPED FROM ME! I HAVE SEEN
HOPE IN THEM -- COURAGE --
AND I WANT THEM TO HAVE
THE CHANCE AT LIFE
THAT I DID NOT!

BUT YOU KNOW
WHAT THAT LIFE DOES
TO THEM, DON'T YOU? THERE
IS ONLY ONE CHANCE TO
PROTECT THEM, TO SAVE THEIR
INNOCENT SOULS -- AND THAT
IS TO KILL THEM BEFORE LIFE
CORRUPTS THOSE SOULS! YOU
KNOW I'M RIGHT!

LET ME
TAKE THEIR
SOULS BEFORE
THEY WIND UP
LIKE YOU!

NEVER!



DONE IN ONE!
YER GOIN' TO THE
CHAOS LORDS, GIRLIE!
AND YOU, LI'L MAN --
YOU'RE THE **BONUS!** AND
IF MY BOSSES CAN'T THINK
OF A USE FOR YOU -- UNCLE
VILE SURE CAN!
WOO-HOO!

WHAT'S THE
BEST WAY TO
TRANSPORT YOU LI'L
RUGRATS? OH, I
KNOW!

SCREEEERAK

IN YA
GO!

AAAAA!

COMFY?
GREAT! LET'S
BOOGIE!



I DON'T KNOW WHO OR WHAT THE HELL YOU ARE BUT YOU LET GO OF THOSE KIDS **RIGHT NOW, YOU HEAR?!**

WELL, WHAT WE GOT HERE? A SPOOK SPOOK.

FORGET IT, DARK AND PALE. I **HEAR** YOU BUT YOU AIN'T GOT A **GHOST** OF A CHANCE OF STOPPING **ME!** GET IT? "GHOST OF A CHANCE?"



OKAY, BE THAT WAY. **DON'T LAUGH.**



NO! VILE IS HERE! HE HAS THE CHILDREN!

LEAVE MY BODY, PARASITE!



HSSSSSSSSSS

GK!

VILE, YOU BAG OF *PUS!*
RELEASE THOSE CHILDREN! I
HAVE CLAIMED THEM!

WELL, WELL, WELL.
SANCTITY, YOU PRISSY LITTLE
BITCH. *THOUGHT* I SMELLED
SOMETHING LIKE YOU BUT
HOPED IT WAS THE BURRITO
I HAD FOR LUNCH!

DON'T EVEN
PRETEND YOU CAN STOP
ME, BITCHY-POO! YOU'RE
SOMEWHAT *LACKING*
IN THE *PHYSICAL*
DEPARTMENT.

I GOT THE
KIDS AND I'M FEEDING
THEM TO MY BOSS!
YOU LOSE! END OF
DISCUSSION!

LADY D! YOU
HAVE GOT TO GET
UP! THERE'S *ANOTHER*
CHAOS AVATAR IN THE
BUILDING! CALLS HIMSELF
VILE AND HE'S GOT
THE CHILDREN!

THAT'S
RIGHT, KIDDIES!
YOU SCREAM! MUSIC
TO MY EARS! MAKES
ME *HAPPY!*

WHERE
IS HE?



YOU'RE THE
LADY DEATH BIMBO
MY WOOSE BROTHER
HAD SUCH PROBLEMS
WITH. HUH! CAN'T IMAGINE
WHY! MAYBE HE JUST
DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO
TREAT YOU!

ME?
I TREAT
YOU LIKE
THIS!

SLAM

HONESTLY,
I DON'T KNOW
WHAT THE BIG DEAL IS.
SANCTITY'S A LOT BIGGER
PROBLEM AND SHE'S STILL
SKULKING AROUND
SOMEWHERE.

YOU LIE
THERE, TOOTS. I'LL
BE BACK FOR YOU LATER,
AFTER I'VE FED THE KIDS TO
MY LORDS AND MASTERS.
LOTS OF THINGS I CAN THINK
TO DO WITH THAT EXQUISITE
CORPSE OF YOURS!
YOWZA!

MAN, I
LOVE BEING
ME!